

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 MMO-01 L-03 NSC-05 DODE-00

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SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PER-01 /055 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3084

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 2742

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS, XX, HA

SUBJECT: NSSM 243-MAAG REQUIREMENT STUDY: EMBASSY COMMENTS

REF: STATE 249431

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: EMBASSY SUPPORTS OPTION B TO AUTHORIZE SECURITY ASSISTANCE GROUP STAFFING FOR HAITI AT THREE U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL. WE BELIEVE IT ESSENTIAL THAT PROGRAM REMAIN A MILITARY TO MILITARY RELATIONSHIP AND THAT DEFENSE ATTACHE, IN THIS SMALL MISSION, CONTINUE TO EXERCISE AT LEAST A MONITOR'S ROLE. END SUMMARY.

2. OPTION B. THIS EMBASSY SUPPORTS PROPOSED AUTHORIZATION OF THREE U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE GROUP STAFFING CONTAINED IN OPTION B REFTEL. IN ADDITION, WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT HAITI BE INCLUDED IN LEGISLATIVE RELIEF WHICH ADMINISTRATION MAY SEEK FROM ABSOLUTE BAN ON PARTICIPATION OF DEFENSE ATTACHES IN SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES. AT PRESENT THIS MISSION JUST QUALIFIES FOR "BEST CASE" CITED REFTEL IN WHICH LESS THAN ONE MAN-YEAR IS DEVOTED TO SECURITY ASSISTANCE-RELATED FUNCTIONS. EVEN WITH PROJECTED START OF FMS CREDITS WE WOULD NOT BE MUCH ABOVE THIS LEVEL.

3. OPTION C(1). AS INDICATED ABOVE WE OPPOSE ASSIGN-
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MENT OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO SEPARATE OSA. THIS IS A

SMALL MISSION ADMINISTERING A PROGRAM BEGUN IN 1975, AND FULL AUTHORIZED STRENGTH WOULD NOT BE IMMEDIATELY USED. THE INCUMBENT DEFENSE ATTACHE KNOWS INTIMATELY THE HAITIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND SOME DEGREE OF OVERSIGHT BY HIM WILL BE INDISPENSABLE TO PROGRAM'S EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING. IN OUR VIEW AN ARTIFICIAL DAO/OSA DIVISION IN A MISSION THIS SIZE WOULD REDUCE PROGRAM'S EFFECTIVENESS AND DENY US FULL CAPACITY TO INDUCE UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION FROM GOH.

4. OPTION C(3). BY SAME TOKEN, WE BELIEVE THAT SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM COULD NOT BE EFFECTIVELY CONDUCTED HERE BY EMBASSY FSO SUPPLEMENTED BY DOD TDY PERSONNEL. OUR SOLE POLITICAL OFFICER WOULD BE HARD PUT TO ADD TO HIS REGULAR DUTIES THE DETAILED AND TECHNICAL WORK, AND THE CONSTANT MILITARY TO MILITARY RELATIONSHIP REQUIRED TO OPERATE A SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. MORE IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THE HAITIANS WOULD BE CONFUSED IF SECURITY ASSISTANCE WERE NOT KEPT IN MILITARY CHANNELS, CLEARLY IDENTIFIABLE AS SUCH. THE ARMED FORCES IN THIS COUNTRY HAVE HAD A LONG HISTORY OF POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT, AND SUFFERED SEVERELY FOR THIS IN RECENT YEARS. THEIR GRADUAL COMEBACK UNDER PRESENT REGIME AND THEIR ABILITY TO PLAY A RESPONSIBLE ROLE IN SOCIETY DEPENDS ON STRICT PROFESSIONALISM. THE ADMINISTRATIN OF OUR SECURITY ASSISTANCE SHOULD HAVE NO POLITICAL CONNOTATION.

5. AS TO GREATER HOST GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION, WE THINK IT EXTREMELY UNLIKELY HAITIANS WOULD BE WILLING TO PICK UP GREATER PORTION OF FUNDING FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE THROUGH TAFT'S UNDER FMS CONTRACTS. THE BUDGETARY CAPACITY SIMPLY DOES NOT EXIST.
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